
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5026

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senator Smith)

Read first time 02/10/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to separating the duties of coroner and prosecuting
2 attorney; and amending RCW 36.16.030, 36.17.020, and 36.24.175.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.16.030 and 1991 c 363 ss 46, 47 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Except as provided elsewhere in this section, in every county there
7 shall be elected from among the qualified voters of the county a county
8 assessor, a county auditor, a county clerk, a county coroner, three
9 county commissioners, a county prosecuting attorney, a county sheriff
10 and a county treasurer, except that in each county with a population of
11 twenty thousand or more and less than forty thousand the county
12 legislative authority may appoint a coroner, and in each county with a
13 population of less than ((forty)) twenty thousand no coroner shall be
14 elected or appointed and the prosecuting attorney shall be ex officio
15 coroner. Whenever the population of a county increases to forty
16 thousand or more, ((the prosecuting attorney)) an appointed coroner
17 shall continue ((as ex officio coroner)) until a coroner is elected, at
18 the next general election at which the office of ((prosecuting
19 attorney)) coroner normally would be elected, and assumes office as

1 provided in RCW 29.04.170. In any county where (~~the population has~~
2 ~~once attained forty thousand people and~~) a current elected coroner is
3 in office and a subsequent census indicates less than (~~forty~~) twenty
4 thousand people, the county legislative authority may maintain the
5 office of coroner by resolution or ordinance. If the county
6 legislative authority has not passed a resolution or enacted an
7 ordinance to maintain the office of coroner, the elected coroner shall
8 remain in office for the remainder of the term for which he or she was
9 elected, but no coroner shall be elected at the next election at which
10 that office would otherwise be filled and the prosecuting attorney
11 shall be the ex officio coroner.

12 In a county where the county legislative authority appoints the
13 coroner, the county legislative authority shall set the coroner's
14 salary and the coroner shall serve at the pleasure of the county
15 legislative authority. An appointed coroner may serve two or more
16 counties if the legislative authorities of the counties authorize such
17 arrangement by interlocal agreement.

18 A noncharter county may have five county commissioners as provided
19 in RCW 36.32.010 and 36.32.055 through 36.32.0558.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.17.020 and 1994 sp.s. c 4 s 1 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 The county legislative authority of each county is authorized to
23 establish the salaries of the elected officials of the county. One-
24 half of the salary of each prosecuting attorney shall be paid by the
25 state. The annual salary of a county elected official shall not be
26 less than the following:

27 (1) In each county with a population of one million or more:
28 Auditor, clerk, treasurer, sheriff, members of the county legislative
29 authority, and coroner, eighteen thousand dollars; assessor, nineteen
30 thousand dollars; and prosecuting attorney, thirty thousand three
31 hundred dollars;

32 (2) In each county with a population of from two hundred ten
33 thousand to less than one million: Auditor, seventeen thousand six
34 hundred dollars; clerk, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars;
35 treasurer, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; sheriff, nineteen
36 thousand five hundred dollars; assessor, seventeen thousand six hundred
37 dollars; prosecuting attorney, twenty-four thousand eight hundred
38 dollars; members of the county legislative authority, nineteen thousand

1 five hundred dollars; and coroner, seventeen thousand six hundred
2 dollars;

3 (3) In each county with a population of from one hundred twenty-
4 five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand: Auditor, sixteen
5 thousand dollars; clerk, sixteen thousand dollars; treasurer, sixteen
6 thousand dollars; sheriff, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars;
7 assessor, sixteen thousand dollars; prosecuting attorney, twenty-four
8 thousand eight hundred dollars; members of the county legislative
9 authority, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; and coroner, sixteen
10 thousand dollars;

11 (4) In each county with a population of from seventy thousand to
12 less than one hundred twenty-five thousand: Auditor, fourteen thousand
13 nine hundred dollars; clerk, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars;
14 treasurer, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; assessor, fourteen
15 thousand nine hundred dollars; sheriff, fourteen thousand nine hundred
16 dollars; prosecuting attorney, twenty-three thousand seven hundred
17 dollars; members of the county legislative authority, fourteen thousand
18 nine hundred dollars; and coroner, fourteen thousand nine hundred
19 dollars;

20 (5) In each county with a population of from forty thousand to less
21 than seventy thousand: Auditor, thirteen thousand eight hundred
22 dollars; clerk, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; treasurer,
23 thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; assessor, thirteen thousand
24 eight hundred dollars; sheriff, thirteen thousand eight hundred
25 dollars; prosecuting attorney, twenty-three thousand seven hundred
26 dollars; members of the county legislative authority, thirteen thousand
27 eight hundred dollars; and coroner, thirteen thousand eight hundred
28 dollars;

29 (6) In each county with a population of from eighteen thousand to
30 less than forty thousand: Auditor, twelve thousand one hundred
31 dollars; clerk, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, twelve
32 thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, twelve thousand one hundred
33 dollars; assessor, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; prosecuting
34 attorney in such a county in which there is no state university or
35 college, fourteen thousand three hundred dollars; in such a county in
36 which there is a state university or college, sixteen thousand five
37 hundred dollars; ~~((and))~~ members of the county legislative authority,
38 eleven thousand dollars; and elected coroner, twelve thousand one
39 hundred dollars;

1 (7) In each county with a population of from twelve thousand to
2 less than eighteen thousand: Auditor, ten thousand one hundred
3 dollars; clerk, ten thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, ten
4 thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, ten thousand one hundred
5 dollars; sheriff, eleven thousand two hundred dollars; prosecuting
6 attorney, thirteen thousand two hundred dollars; and members of the
7 county legislative authority, nine thousand four hundred dollars;

8 (8) In each county with a population of from eight thousand to less
9 than twelve thousand: Auditor, ten thousand one hundred dollars;
10 clerk, ten thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, ten thousand one
11 hundred dollars; assessor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff,
12 eleven thousand two hundred dollars; prosecuting attorney, nine
13 thousand nine hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative
14 authority, seven thousand dollars;

15 (9) In each county with a population of from five thousand to less
16 than eight thousand: Auditor, nine thousand one hundred dollars;
17 clerk, nine thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, nine thousand one
18 hundred dollars; assessor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff,
19 ten thousand five hundred dollars; prosecuting attorney, nine thousand
20 nine hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative authority,
21 six thousand five hundred dollars;

22 (10) In each other county: Auditor, nine thousand one hundred
23 dollars; clerk, nine thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, nine
24 thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, ten thousand five hundred
25 dollars; assessor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; prosecuting
26 attorney, nine thousand nine hundred dollars; and members of the county
27 legislative authority, six thousand five hundred dollars.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.24.175 and 1991 c 363 s 54 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 In each county with a population of (~~forty~~) twenty thousand or
31 more, no person shall be qualified for the office of county coroner as
32 provided for in RCW 36.16.030 who is an owner or employee of any
33 funeral home or mortuary.

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